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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

5

Application Number

10/600,808

Filing Date

June 20, 2003

First Named Inventor

Curtiss Renn

Art Unit

1764

Examiner Name

Basia Anna Ridley

Attorney Docket Number

NPW 347

**ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC
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**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**

Firm Name	Kolisch Hartwell, P.C.		
Signature			
Printed name	David S. D'Ascenzo		
Date	August 10, 2005	Reg. No.	39,952

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Typed or printed name	David S. D'Ascenzo	Date	August 10, 2005

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Date: August 10, 2005

In re Application of:

CURTISS RENN

Serial No. : 10/600,808

Group Art Unit: 1764

Filed : June 20, 2003

Examiner: Basia Anna Ridley

For : METHANOL STEAM REFORMING CATALYSTS,  
STEAM REFORMERS, AND FUEL CELL SYSTEMS  
INCORPORATING THE SAME

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

M a d a m :

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

This is a response to the Restriction Requirement issued on July 26, 2005 in connection with the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-41 are presently pending in the application. In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner identified three sets of patentably distinct species and has required Applicant to elect for initial examination one of the species in each set. As set forth in the Restriction Requirement, Species A relates to patentably distinct species (1-4) of catalyst, Species B relates to patentably distinct species (1-4) of fuel processing system, and Species C relates to patentably distinct species (1-3) of separation regions. Applicant understands that he has been requested to identify one of each set of species for

initial examination, but that the election of a particular species within a set shall not preclude consideration, due to that election, of other species from one of the other identified species.

In response, and without at this point traversing the propriety of negative limitations in the identified species in the context of a “comprising” claim, Applicant elects the below-discussed ones of the identified species.

Regarding Species A, Applicant understands that he must pick from one of the four identified species to be responsive to the Restriction Requirement. Accordingly, Applicant elects Species A-1 (“wherein the catalyst comprises zinc oxide, but does not comprise copper oxide”). Applicant submits that all pending claims read on or are generic to the elected species because none of the pending claims recite subject matter that precludes the inclusion of the elected species. However, Applicant also submits that most of the pending claims also are generic to the elected species because they also do not require the elected subject matter. For example, only claims 3, 25, and 35 specifically recite that the catalyst does not contain copper oxide (as contained in all of the identified species identified in the Restriction Requirement). Some of the claims, like claim 1, limit the amount of copper oxide that may be present, but none of the claims require the inclusion of copper oxide.

Regarding Species B, Applicant understands that he must pick from one of the four identified species to be responsive to the Restriction Requirement. Accordingly, Applicant elects Species B-2 (“wherein the fuel processing system

comprises a fuel reforming region and a separation region, but does not comprise a polishing region”). Applicant submits that only claim 17 recites any form of polishing region. Therefore, claims 1-16 and 18-41 are believed to read on or be generic to the elected species. Applicant understands that claim 17 will remain in the application and will be considered upon allowance of claim 1. Applicant also understands that claims that do not specifically recite a separation region will still be considered during initial examination because the claims do not preclude the inclusion of a separation region. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicant requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss this requirement.

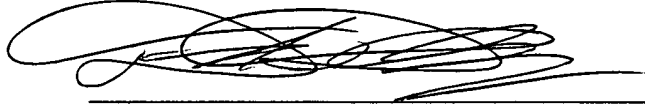
Regarding Species C, Applicant elects species C-1 (“wherein the separation region comprises [at least one] membrane”). Applicant submits that all pending claims read on or are generic to the elected species because the claims either affirmatively recite the inclusion of a separation region that includes at least one membrane or the claims neither require nor preclude the use of such a separation region. Even the claims that specifically recite the subject matter of one of the other identified species of separation region are believed to be generic to the identified species because the claims do not preclude the use of two or more different types of separation region, or subcomponents thereof. Furthermore, the specification specifically states that, while not required, this is possible without departing from the scope of the disclosure.

With the above species elections for initial examination, Applicant submits that all of the issues raised in the Restriction Requirement have been addressed. If the

Examiner has any questions or identifies any remaining issues that may be resolved in a telephone interview to advance prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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